Appl. No. 10/770,943
Amdt. dated May 8, 2008
Reply to Office Action of February 25, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 9, and 13 without prejudice and amend claims 1, 4, 6, 11, and

15-17 as follows:

1. (currently amended): A pseudodevice for communicating between a network-

resident software application and a user device, the pseudodevice comprising:

a first port for communications between the network-resident software application

and the pseudodevice;

a second port for communications between the pseudodevice and the user device;

a first interface function associated with the first port for receiving a message

request from the network-resident software application and for sending a response to the

network-resident software application. wherein the message request from the network-resident

software application comprises query parameters to specify the type of query to send to the user

device and the query parameters comprise a query type, query strings, a target username, and a

source username supplied by the pseudodevice. wherein the instant message when received in the

user device appears to come from an instant messaging user separate from the pseudodevice; and

a second interface function associated with the second port for sending in

response to the message request an instant message to the user device in a format adapted for

communication with an instant messaging client resident on the user device, and receiving an

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HTTP request from a web browser located on the user device, providing a selected response to

the received HTTP request, and sending an HTTP response in a format adapted for

communication with an HTTP client on the user device.

    2. and 3. canceled

    4. (currently amended):   The pseudodevice of claim 3̶1, wherein the query type further

comprises:

        a type display for use in displaying strings to the user device;

        a type choose for offering a menu of choices; and

        a type prompt for requesting information to be entered.

    5. (previously presented):   The pseudodevice of claim 1 further comprising:

        a session ID generator for assigning a unique session ID for a message request

from the network-resident software application;

        a request table for maintaining a unique session ID mapping to the software

application that initiated the message request;

        an instant messaging message formatter for formatting a message to conform to an

instant messaging interface standard;

        an instant messaging client/server for use in sending messages to another instant

messaging user; and

        an HTTP server for receiving HTTP requests, providing a selected response to a

received HTTP request, and sending HTTP responses.

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6. (currently amended):   A method for communicating between a network-resident

software application and a user device through a network-resident component, the method

comprising:

receiving in the network-resident component a message request from the network-

resident software application, wherein the message request from the network resident software

application comprises a query type, query strings to be displayed, a target user name parameter

for the instant messaging name of the user device, and a source user name parameter supplied by

the network-resident component to specify an arbitrary source;

translating in the network-resident component the message request to a

hyperlinked instant message to the user device in a format adapted for communication with an

instant messaging client resident on the user device;

sending the hyperlinked instant message from the network-resident component to

the user device;

receiving in the network-resident component an HTTP request from a web

browser located in the user device as a user response to a user action that was elicited by the

hyperlinked instant message;

sending from the network-resident component to the user device a selected type of

HTTP response dependent upon the type of HTTP request received; and

sending the user response from the network-resident component to the network-

resident software application that initiated the message request for selected types of HTTP

requests.

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7. (original):   The method of claim 6 wherein the message request from the network-resident software application is a display message request.

8. (original):   The method of claim 6 wherein the message request from the network-resident software application is a choose message request.

9.   canceled

10. (previously presented):   The method of claim 6, wherein the hyperlinked instant message further comprises:

an embedded unique session identifier, unique message type, and unique message identifier for selected message requests that elicit a user response in a uniform resource locater (URL) associated with a hyperlinked text message that is sent to the user device, where the URL is used by the user device to identify the network-resident component for sending a response.

11. (currently amended):   A method for requesting information from a user by communicating between a network-resident software application and a user device through a network-resident component, the method comprising:

receiving in the network-resident component a message request for information from a user from the network-resident software application, wherein the message request from the network resident software application further comprises a query type, query strings to be displayed, a target user name parameter for the instant messaging name of the user device, and a source user name parameter supplied by the network-resident component to specify an arbitrary source;

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translating in the network-resident component the message request to a

hyperlinked instant message to the user device in a format adapted for communication with an

instant messaging client resident on the user device;

sending the hyperlinked instant message from the network-resident component to

the user device;

receiving in the network-resident component a first HTTP request from a web

browser located in the user device as a response to a user action that was elicited by the

hyperlinked instant message;

sending from the network-resident component to the user device a selected type of

HTTP response including a web form for entry of the requested information, in response to the

first HTTP request;

receiving in the network-resident component a second HTTP request from the

user device's web browser as a user response to a user action that was elicited by the selected

type of HTTP response, the user response including the web form filled out with the requested

information; and

sending the user response including the requested information from the network-

resident component to the network-resident software application that initiated the message

request for selected types of HTTP requests.

12. (original):   The method of claim 11 wherein the message request from the network-

resident software application is a prompt message request.

13.   canceled

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14. (previously presented):   The method of claim 11, wherein the hyperlinked instant message further comprises:

an embedded unique session identifier, unique message type, and unique message identifier for selected message requests that elicit a user response in a uniform resource locater (URL) associated with a hyperlinked text message that is sent to the user device, where the URL is used by the user device to identify the network-resident component for sending a response.

15. (currently amended):   A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to perform in a unified real-time manner interactions between at least one network-resident software application and at least one user device through a network-resident component, by performing the steps of:

~~responding~~ receiving ~~to~~ a selected message request ~~received~~ in the network-resident component from the network-resident software application, wherein the selected message request from the network resident software application further comprises a query type, query strings to be displayed, a target user name parameter for the instant messaging name of the user device, and a source user name parameter supplied by the network-resident component to specify an arbitrary source;

translating in the network-resident component the selected message request to an instant message in a selected instant message format adapted for communication with an instant messaging client resident on the user device;

sending the instant message from the network-resident component to the user device;

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communicating and adapting the communications between the network-resident

component and a web browser HTTP client resident on the user device for selected message

requests; and

sending a user response from the network-resident component to the network-

resident software application that initiated the message request for selected message requests.

16. (currently amended):   The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the

network-resident component comprises:

a first software interface function which is used for responding to a-the selected

message request from the network-resident software application and sending a user response to

the network-resident software application that initiated the message request for selected message

requests; and

a second software interface function which is used for translating a-the selected

message request to a selected instant message format adapted for communication with an instant

messaging client resident on the user device, sending the instant message from the network-

resident component to the user device, and communicating and adapting the communications

with an HTTP client resident on the user device for selected message requests.

17. (currently amended):   A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a

computer system to perform in a unified real-time manner interactions between at least one

network-resident software application and at least one user device, the computer system having a

pseudodevice as a unified software interface function that provides an interface between the at

least one network-resident software application and the at least one user device, by performing:

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responding receiving to a selected message request in the pseudodevice from the

network-resident software application, wherein the selected message request from the network

resident software application further comprises a query type, query strings to be displayed, a

target user name parameter for the instant messaging name of the user device, and a source user

name parameter supplied by the pseudodevice to specify an arbitrary source;

translating in the pseudodevice a the selected message request to a selected instant

message format adapted for communication with an instant messaging client resident on the user

device;

communicating and adapting the communications between a web browser's HTTP

client resident on the user device and the pseudodevice for selected message requests; and

sending a user response from the pseudodevice to the network-resident software

application that initiated the message request for selected message requests.

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